



The Old Ironsides Report



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Representative Councils Let Baghdad Citizens be Heard

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372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Democracy has been instilled in the city of Baghdad with the help of coalition forces. City, district and neighborhood councils were established to pave the way toward democracy and self-governance after the prior regime had fallen.

According to Capt. Robert Brewer, civil military officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, 1st Armored Division, meetings are held weekly by the different levels of city government to discuss issues.

"It's been working very well," Brewer said. "It's a voice of the citizens to the military."

Topics that have been discussed in the meetings include food rations, electricity, water and sewage. Most problems can be solved at the neighborhood or district levels, Brewer said, however, if the problem is too complex to solve it can be taken to the next level.

"If it is something that needs greater attention, they take it to the city council," said Brewer.

All the kinks have not yet worked out in the system, however.

"Our problems are much bigger than our power," said Abdul Hamid Al-Adamy, the district chairman of the Ad Hamiya district of Baghdad. "We wish, in the near future, to solve problems more easily."

According to Brewer, there are three levels of government in the city of Baghdad. They include the neighborhood councils, the district councils and the city council. There are eight district councils in the city. One representative from each neighborhood council make up the district councils and one representative from each district council make up the city council.



Brig. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, commanding general of the 1st Armored Division, speaks to Baghdad-area advisory councils. Coalition forces regularly work with the councils to further help the citizens of Baghdad.

The coalition's role in the establishment of the city government included the election of officials at the neighborhood level by local citizens and running the first two meetings to show the newly elected members how the democratic process works. Now, Brewer said, the meetings are entirely run by the new officials and are now taking charge. Eight meetings have been conducted at the district level to date.

Even though democracy is new to the people of Iraq, the representatives are happy the people have a say in how government is run.

"We are not used to dealing with freedoms like Americans," said Al-Adamy. "Your (coalition) achievement has been very good in Iraq."

NEWS

100,000 Urged to Flee Hurricane Isabel

MANTEO, N.C. (AP) - Traffic surged off the Outer Banks island chain Tuesday as more than 100,000 people were urged to evacuate the North Carolina coast before the arrival of Hurricane Isabel, which had weakened but remained a dangerous storm on a track toward land. The National Hurricane Center posted a hurricane watch from Little River Inlet, S.C., to Chincoteague, Va., including Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds and a large part of Chesapeake Bay.

Ex-Gen. Wesley Clark to Seek White House

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) - Wesley Clark, the retired general with a four-star military resume but no political experience, decided Tuesday to become the 10th Democratic presidential candidate, officials close to him said. "We'll make an announcement in Little Rock tomorrow," Clark told The Associated Press. He didn't reveal his decision but said with a smile, "We're tremendously excited."

AOL Time Warner Secures Sports Team Deal

ATLANTA (AP) - AOL Time Warner has agreed to sell its professional basketball and hockey teams in Atlanta to a group that includes a family link to former owner Ted Turner, a source familiar with the deal says. AOL Time Warner called a news conference for Tuesday afternoon to announce it is selling the NBA's Hawks, the NHL's Thrashers and operating rights to the teams' home, Philips Arena, to an investment group that includes Turner's son-in-law, a person familiar with the deal said Monday night.

Chaplain's Thought for the Day:

A Kind Word

A newspaper obituary made this statement: "Services for affable fix-it man are today." Instead of focusing on one of the movers and shakers of society, the article told the story of a 79-year-old appliance repairman who was known for his integrity, character, and unquenchable happiness. The president of the company for which the man had worked said, "Half of his job was to go to people's houses and fix the appliances, and the other half was to fix the people. We had a lot of people with problems who requested him by name. He was very jovial, very friendly, and always had a kind word." No matter what our job, perhaps the most important work we do is helping and encouraging people, especially by what we say. The book of Proverbs speaks often of the tongue's power to hurt or to heal. For example: "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit. . . . A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!" (Proverbs 15:4,23).

Kind words are always the right kind.

Oddly Enough

Canadians Pan Government-Backed Marijuana

OTTAWA (AP) -- Some of the first patients to smoke Canada's government-approved marijuana say it is "disgusting" and they want their money back. Health Canada, the federal health department, started selling marijuana in July to bring relief to patients suffering from AIDS, cancer and other diseases. The move followed a court order that patients should not be forced to get their marijuana from drug dealers on the streets. But some of the first to buy the government's marijuana say it is no good.

"It's totally unsuitable for human consumption," said Jim Wakeford, 58, an AIDS patient in Gibsons, British Columbia. Wakeford and Barrie Dalley, a 52-year-old Toronto man who uses marijuana to combat the nausea associated with AIDS, are returning their 1-ounce bags, and Dalley is demanding his money back - about \$195 plus taxes. Wakeford is returning his unpaid bill for two bags with a written complaint. The marijuana is being grown for Health Canada deep underground in a vacant mine section in Flin Flon, Manitoba, by Prairie Plant Systems on a contract worth about \$7.5 million. Ten patients have registered with Health Canada to buy marijuana directly from the government to alleviate their medical symptoms. Another 39 applications are pending. No patients have complained directly to Health Canada so far, spokeswoman Krista Apse said, and the department will not accept returns or provide refunds. Meanwhile, Vancouver inaugurated North America's first government-authorized drug-injection site Monday. The controversial government-funded project will give users injection kits and allow them to shoot up under nurse supervision. Drug users sometimes use dirty needles and water from puddles to shoot up. Now, addicts wanting to use the new facility will be ushered into a brightly lit room lined on one side by open, mirrored booths where they can inject drugs. After finishing, they will be taken to a "chill-out room," where they can receive counseling and peer referrals.

A Smart Tip From 1AD Safety

When refueling vehicles:

- ♠ **Cut-off vehicle engines**
- ♥ **Vehicle must be grounded**
- ♣ **Don't smoke in or near vehicles being refueled**
- ♦ **Make sure the fuel tank cap is replaced**

ENTERTAINMENT

Christian Bale cast as new 'Batman'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Holy casting news! An American Psycho has been picked to star as Bruce Wayne in a new Batman movie. Christian Bale will don the cape and mask in a film that will chronicle the early career of The Dark Knight, Warner Bros. Pictures announced Thursday. Memento filmmaker Christopher Nolan will direct the movie, which is set to begin filming in early 2004. "What I see in Christian is the ultimate embodiment of Bruce Wayne. He has exactly the balance of darkness and light that we were looking for," Nolan said in a statement. Bale, 29, made his breakthrough in Steven Spielberg's Empire of the Sun in 1987, playing a boy trying to survive in a Japanese-run POW camp in China. His other credits include Swing Kids (1993), Velvet Goldmine (1998) and Shaft (2000). Bale's most infamous role was as the yuppie serial-killer in 2000's American Psycho. Warner Bros. is trying to resurrect the Batman franchise. The character became a top box office draw after director Tim Burton and star Michael Keaton made two hit movies Batman (1989) and Batman Returns (1992). The films got a little campier when Joel Schumacher took over for 1995's Batman Forever, with Val Kilmer as the Caped Crusader. The next installment, 1997's Batman & Robin, was a critical disaster that alienated many fans. It starred George Clooney.

On This Day In History: **September 17th 1939**

Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov declares that the Polish government has ceased to exist, as the U.S.S.R. exercises the "fine print" of the Hitler-Stalin Non-aggression pact—the invasion and occupation of eastern Poland. Hitler's troops were already wreaking havoc in Poland, having invaded on the first of the month. The Polish army began retreating and regrouping east, near Lvov, in eastern Galicia, attempting to escape relentless German land and air offensives. The Ribbentrop-Molotov Non-aggression Pact, signed in August, had eliminated any hope Poland had of a Russian ally in a war against Germany. Little did Poles know that a secret clause of that pact, the details of which would not become public until 1990, gave the U.S.S.R. the right to mark off for itself a chunk of Poland's eastern region. The "reason" given was that Russia had to come to the aid of its "blood brothers," the Ukrainians and Byelorussians, who were trapped in territory that had been illegally annexed by Poland

source: historychannel.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Top 5 Singles

- 1 Shake Ya Tailfeather
Nelly, P. Diddy & Murphy Lee
- 2 Baby Boy
Beyonce featuring Sean Paul
- 3 Right Thurr
Chingy
- 4 Into You
Fabolous featuring Tamia or Ashanti
- 5 Frontin'
Pharrell featuring Jay-Z

Top 5 Albums

- 1 Metamorphosis
Hilary Duff
- 2 Love & Life
Mary J. Blige
- 3 Greatest Hits Volume II and Some Other Stuff
Alan Jackson
- 4 Dangerously in Love
Beyonce
- 5 Fallen
Evanescence

Top 5 Bestsellers

- 1 The South Beach Diet
Arthur Agatston Rodale
- 2 Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them: A Fair and Balanced Look at the Right
Al Franken E.P. Dutton
- 3 The Da Vinci Code
Dan Brown Doubleday
- 4 Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution
Robert C. Atkins Avon
- 5 Seabiscuit: An American Legend
Laura Hillenbrand Ballantine

Top 5 Movies

- 1 Once Upon a Time in Mexico, \$24 million.
- 2 Matchstick Men, \$13.3 million.
- 3 Cabin Fever, \$8.5 million.
- 4 Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star, \$5 million.
- 5 Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl, \$4.6 million.

source: USATODAY